

THE PLANTER.

LIBERTY, SATURDAY, MARCH 17, 1838.

DEMOCRATIC CANDIDATES FOR CONGRESS.

**J. F. H. Claiborne,
S. J. Gholson.**

Letters of communications addressed to the editors of the Planter, must be post-paid, to secure attention.

We have been requested to state that the Rev. C. F. Felder is expected to preach in Liberty, on Friday next, the 23d inst.

SHIP CANAL.

The great design to connect the Atlantic and Pacific oceans, by a canal across the Isthmus of Darien, is again receiving the attention of Congress.

The Cotton crop of Texas, for the year 1838, is computed at 50,000 bales.

The Little Rock papers say, Fort Smith, Arkansas is chosen as the most appropriate location for the new Garrison, contemplated for some time, for the accommodation of the U. S. Troops—it is to be erected forthwith, by competent workmen, and of the best materials.

MORE LIGHT.

The citizens of St. Louis are enlightened enough to see how dark their city is, and have come to the conclusion that it is best to light it with gas, which will reflect great credit on them.

A fire broke out in the east wing of the Academy at West Point, to the great injury of that establishment, it is said the loss is some nine or ten thousand dollars.

On Saturday evening, the 10th inst., a murder was committed on the body of a man, by the name of Hugh Causey, from Kentucky, by Samuel Potts, both slave-makers. The particulars are, that Causey walked eighteen miles to have revenge on Potts, for some trifling difference that had occurred between them, he (Causey,) had expected to wait till Sunday morning to settle, but liquor, that fell distemper of mankind, hurled him into an untimely grave. Potts being aware of the intention of Causey, to have his (Potts') life or lose his own, lost no time, but armed himself with that murderous weapon, WHISKEY, aided by the use of a simple shoe-knife, awaited the attack; Causey being urged on by the effects, or influence of liquor, struck Potts, who thrust his knife into Causey's neck, cutting his jugular vein. He died on Sunday morning, about 4 o'clock.

The coroner held an inquest over the body, and the jury returned a verdict that Causey had come to his death by a stab from the hand of Potts, acting in self-defence.

Hon. J. F. TROTTER, Senator from this State, appeared in the U. S. Senate, on the 19th ult., was qualified and took his seat.

DUEL.

Mr. Cilley, of Maine, and Mr. Graves, of Kentucky, members of the House of Representatives, fought a duel with rifles, which terminated in the death of the former, who fell by the third shot to rise no more. The Editor of the New York Courier, sent a letter to Cilley, by Graves, Cilley would not receive it, which is said to be the reason why he was challenged by Graves, who afterwards shot him. Rumor says, Webb and M. Duncan, of Ohio, are to fight a duel, perhaps to add another to the long list of honorable murders.

"If man can't mount, he will descend." To satisfy ourselves that the poet was correct in making this assertion, we need only consult the pages of history, nay, our own experience, however limited, will fully convince us of its truth. Here we meet with one, who, failing to obtain the objects that tempted his avarice or allured his ambition, seems, like Richard III., to have deliberately "determined to be a villain." Then we see another, who, because he cannot do any positive good, appears resolved to disobey entirely, the apostle's injunction, to "eschew evil and do good." He is content to go about and do wilful harm. He is only happy when he can unnecessarily distress and disquiet those around him, who but for him might be allowed uninterruptedly to pursue the "noiseless tenor of their way." He places the *summum bonum* in disturbing the peace and diminishing the happiness of others, and if ever a beam of tranquility lights up his breast, 'tis when he traduces and defames those who excel him in virtue and intelligence—'tis when the arrow of detraction and calumny well sped from his mouth fastens on its victim. Thersites acquired immortality by abusing and scandalizing his betters. Erastus, immortalized himself by setting fire to the temple of Diana at Ephesus, which was reckoned one of the seven wonders of the world, thus by associating his name with the destruction of this magnificent temple, he secured that undying fame which his own merit could never have brought him. A neighbor of ours, actuated by a like ambition, is seeking fame by scandalizing and libelling those whom he cannot rival in distinction and honors. A. G. McNutt, J. F. H. Claiborne and S. J. Gholson—McNutt is Governor of Mississippi, the distance between our friend and the gubernatorial chair is immense, full of self-importance and vain as he is, he cannot aspire to that chair. He cannot mount up to McNutt, but he would pull him down, like as himself. He would bring eternal disgrace on his state by displaying the "swinish meanness" of her Governor, "who is a disgrace to Mississippi." To do this he must vilify and slander McNutt, calumnies must be "disseminated"—Claiborne and Gholson must be called "master-geniuses of inequity, duplicity and infamous demagoguism." Doubtless, this modern Thersites will succeed to such fame as he deserves, if he does not, the fault shall not be ours.

We see from the address of the Hon. J. F. H. Claiborne, to the people of Mississippi, that when he shall have returned home, he will as soon as possible, address the people in every county in the State. This is doubtless an intelligence to his enemies, for then will he have an opportunity of disabusing the public mind of the ma-

ny shameful misrepresentations that have been made about him—then will he be able to confront, face to face, with those soulless traducers whose constant business it has been to misrepresent his acts and vilify his character. He and Gholson are considered by all as the Democratic candidates for Congress, at the ensuing election, which will take place on the 23d and 24th of April. They are the two on which the whole Democratic party must and will unite. That their talents and qualifications are of the highest order, none can dispute, and the faithful and dignified manner in which they have defended and maintained the rights of Mississippi and promoted the interests of their constituents, while it endears them to every honest friend to freedom, will secure for them an overwhelming majority over those political swindlers, Prentiss and Word, who shall see how vain has been their malignant and unrelenting hostility, when all the disgrace and ruin they meditated for these devoted servants of the people, shall recoil upon their own heads.

The Whigs in several states have already nominated Henry Clay as a candidate for the next Presidency. Verily, they have made a judicious choice, for who could so fitly be the champion of a party composed of such various and discordant materials as Clay? They may well rally to the support and elevation of him, in whom are combined all the elements of that heterogeneous mass of politicians made up of Federalists, Nullifiers, Whigs, Abolitionists, *et id omne genus*. Federalists may take him by the hand and call him brother, Whigs and Nullifiers will rise up and call him "blessed," because he is the advocate of a National Bank. And the Abolitionists will doubtless give him their undivided support, convinced that he is the man after their own hearts, having fully proved himself an Abolitionist. He was a candidate for a seat in the Convention that formed the present Constitution of Kentucky, and was beaten on the ground that he was an advocate for the abolition of slavery. Recently, when in the Senate of the U. S., the north and the south were arrayed against each on this exciting subject, his conduct left no doubt on the minds of any, that he favored the views of the northern fanatics. Some of the Whigs in this state have espoused his cause and are urging his claims, but badly have they learned to appreciate the virtue and intelligence of the people of Mississippi if they suppose that they will give their support to a man who has uniformly opposed their best interests. Has he not opposed the graduation of the price of public lands? Has he not laboriously labored to defeat all pre-emption laws? Is he not the friend and almost the father of the tariff which imposes taxes on the agriculturalist of the south for the support and aggrandizement of the manufacturer of the north? Let them answer these questions to the people, and then see if they will agree to have such a man as Henry Clay is, to preside over their destinies. If Clay consents to be made the "forlorn hope" of this desperate party, it will not surprise us, as—

"The wretched have no more to fear."

He has been so often beaten, that another failure would bring to him none of the humiliating mortification of a defeat.

One of Prentiss's letter writers says, "I do not think I hazard any thing in saying that Clay will get the vote of Mississippi." True, he hazards nothing, for if he possessed either veracity or good sense, he would not have said so.

Mrs. A. Benton, mother of the Hon. Senator from Missouri, Thos. H. Benton, died lately at St. Louis, aged 80 years. The papers of St. Louis, and elsewhere, speak of her in the most unqualified terms. She was a lady of extraordinary qualities of mind; combining in an eminent degree, all that is loved and admired in the female character, such as would have made her illustrious had she lived in Rome, when matrons encouraged military achievements there, or in the iron age of Sparta, when mothers disowned a son for having turned his back to an enemy of his country. This lamented lady gave early vigor and tone to a mind richly endowed by its creator. Though woman's sphere is lamented—though she does not ascend the pulpit, or occupy the forum, she prepares the other sex for those places. Mrs. B. lived to see her son occupy a conspicuous place in the councils of the nation and in the esteem of his countrymen—and died lamented by all who knew her; having proof, that there is perhaps not an instance of a man of genius having had a dull woman for his mother, though many have had fathers stupid enough in all conscience. Talent, therefore, is much more communicable to the offspring from the maternal side than from the other. If a man wishes to have clever children, this may perhaps serve him as an apology for marrying a woman of talent, should all other excuses be wanting.

The Free Trader of the 9th inst., speaks, in as prophetic a manner, as if inspired—we have inspired and uninspired prophets; the reader can judge of the inspiration of the prophet, who said before the 9th inst., "We predict and we wish the Courier to mark the predictions, that Brown and Barton will both decline the nomination of the Gallatin Star, and recommend the democracy to unite upon Claiborne and Gholson." The Star of the 10th contains the following remarks from the editor, showing the truth of the prediction and proving the intimate knowledge, (the result of experience and observation) the talented editor of the Free Trader has of the republican party in Mississippi. The Gallatin Star says, "We this week take from our columns the names of Gen. Brown and Roger Barton, Esq., as candidates for Congress, inasmuch as both of these gentlemen refused to be considered as candidates." The consolation derived from this source to the Whigs, can no more exist.

But hope, so kindly bent to please them, Finds out some circumstance to ease them.

They have an excellent knack at hoping—they can hope, even against hope; no doubt is entertained here of the strength of the Democratic party, but the whigs say the democrats will not support the candidates of that party; this is a delusive hope.

PRENTISS & CO.

It has been said that these hungry office seekers are opposed to running the contest over again, in April. We are not at all surprised at this, as for the life of us we cannot see what they could expect to gain by running when Claiborne and Gholson are in the field, save, a third defeat for their Salmagundy party. Twice already has this pie-bald company arrayed them on to put down Claiborne and Gholson, and as often have they been forced to retire from the charge broken and vanquished, so that now, with their "flag all tattered and torn, as it is," they may well try to obtain by artifice and cunning device, what in fair and open fight they never can gain. However loudly the whigs may talk about *re-election*, they are not so much deceived as to believe that one single one of Claiborne and Gholson's friends will desert them at the ensuing election. The people of Mississippi have sustained them in days past, against the fury and rage of their enemies, and they will sustain them again. Why not? Have their opponents in the bold and reckless spirit of mendacity that has characterized them, dared to charge them with infidelity to their constituents? No. This they could not do—never did representatives serve Mississippi with greater ability, zeal and industry, than they have done. None have ever labored more assiduously for her interests, none have more effectually promoted and secured them. Yet are they made the subjects of the foulest and most scandalous obloquy, so true it is, that "He that chaste as ice, as pure as snow, thus shalt not escape calumny." Especially, the poet might have added "if thou be eminent and throw thy ignominious into the shade." The advocates of truth and justice—the benefactors of mankind in every age and under all circumstances—been the objects of unmitigated persecution—*in-lieu* had his persecutors—Socrates his murderers—Seneca his, and the AUTHOR of the Christian Religion was first accused and tormented, and afterwards slain by the very people whom he came to deliver. It is then no wonder that Claiborne and Gholson, who honestly and faithfully discharged their duty with credit to themselves and those who confided to them such important trusts, should be the objects of the vituperation and abuse of those who are scarcely worthy to unbind their shoes. They have borne with the mildness of the lamb all the malignant and sublimated abuse—the relentless persecution of their enemies characterized by the rage and blood-thirstiness of the wolf. What is the difference in the character of the victim and that of the pursuer?

But the whole secret of the opposition to these men, is this: Prentiss & Co. want office, they are out and can't get in till they get those who are in out—and for this they call upon Claiborne and Gholson's friends to desert them—to abandon well-tried and faithful public servants. This we are persuaded they will not do until better reasons shall be given than have yet been offered. The only objection, that with any degree of plausibility can be brought to these men, is, that they held their seats in the national legislature to which the people of Mississippi elected them, and to which the highest constitutional tribunal adjudged them entitled, and refused to run a second time for an office which they conscientiously believed themselves already in the possession of. All who will take the trouble to acquaint themselves with the circumstances under which these gentlemen took their seats in September, will not only justify but will commend them. Dear reader, and judge for yourself.

"On our arrival here, we found the opinion was almost universal, that the election was either valid for the entire term of the twenty-fifth Congress, or wholly null and void; and, consequently, that we must either demand our seats for the entire term, or at this momentous period of public affairs voluntarily lay down the trust reposed in us, and leave the State of Mississippi unrepresented. There was no other alternative—no middle ground. Not twenty men in Congress would have voted that we were entitled to our seats for the extra session only. It was conceded, on all hands, that we were elected for the whole Congress or not at all. Indeed, this issue was presented by the opposition, through Mr. Mercer, of Virginia, on the first day of the session; and before the House was organized, or its officers elected, an arbitrary attempt was made to prevent us from taking our seats or expressing our voice in the election of a SPEAKER. Having indignantly and successfully resisted this attempt to stifle your rights, we were called upon to determine whether we would abandon our places, or at once assume the only tenable ground, that the election was valid for the entire term. In other words, whether we would consent to disfranchise the State at this important juncture, or claim to exercise those rights which, by a large majority, you had committed to our keeping. We could not hesitate. The whole matter was referred to the Committee of Elections. Their decision recognized the issue that we have presented to you; the maj. reporting that we were duly and legally elected for the whole of the twenty-fifth Congress; and the dissenting minority being of the opinion that the election was wholly void. To this latter opinion we could not assent. We believed there was a vacancy in the representation from Mississippi, that we had been delegated by the will of the people, fairly and fully expressed, to fill that vacancy, and that we could not be elected for a shorter period than two years. Had we taken any other ground, we must have necessarily abandoned our seats, and thus sustained a principle which we have heretofore repudiated, and upon which the whigs of Mississippi have attempted to disfranchise the new counties, by depriving them of their right of being represented in the State Legislature."

More war on the Northern Frontier; the patriots are again combining their energies; the papers from that quarter give accounts of recent movement and combination, concerning which we purport to give some account in our next number.

For the Planter.

A VISIT TO A PRINTING OFFICE.

The first thing that I saw was a Table with an indefinite number of black spots, in rows; I examined them until my curiosity was satisfied. I rested my arm on the, what I thought a new fashioned table, until I could look at a large black thing, which I at first thought was a new fashioned negro—whilst I was gazing at my new negro, one of the gentlemen of the office touched me and pointed to the wall, on which I saw inscribed, "LOOK BUT TOUCH NOT," and then pointed to the place on my "new fashioned table," on which I had rested my elbow, and behold, I had thrown somebody's mental labor, perhaps, and certainly some of his manual labor into "pie," as he stated it. I saw the mischief, left the office,—and determined that if ever I entered another, I would "Look, but touch not." O.E.

For the Planter.

TO THE PUBLIC.

The way the Liberty Advocate does things.

It came out against all the post-masters—called them, "piratical cruisers of Amos," and accused them of the meanest sort of theft, violation of their oaths, and breach of trust and confidence—in short, they were accused of all that is disgraceful; being one of the postmasters, and residing where this charge was made, it became my duty to contradict it; because I dared to state the truth, the Advocate hauled me before the public—used my character in the roughest manner; in an article in which, it sustained by truth, or believed by the readers of the Advocate, and the community at large, would damn me forever. "Thou shalt not bear false witness against thy neighbor," is the divine injunction, which the Advocate does not obey; it says, I am "a man whose highest ambition is, to be considered able to tell bigger lies, and more of them, with a longer face than any one else; and who by long application and perseverance has acquired the art and richly merits the appellation of the *Mancheusen* or *Amité*." The writer knew, when he wrote the above quotation, that it was a lie; it could not be truly said of any man, not even of the writer, who in the face of truth, in the community in which he and I both reside, and who know us, could come out and say that lying is a man's highest ambition; shame where is thy blush? A man ambitious to be considered the greatest liar! What intimation can act so, as to cause a man to forget his dignity so far. When called on to prove this, too, the Advocate says: "We shall treat with silent contempt any thing coming from this striker of Amos." What will any candid man say of the Advocate, when he considers this matter? The editor takes advantage of his position as the conductor of a public journal, behind which he stands, believing himself secure, and stabs private character. Should not the press be the guardian and not the assassin of private character? But when called on to prove the charges, what is the language used? It is this: "We shall treat with silent contempt any thing coming from the striker of Amos." Why, when truth demands expression, be silent? Why be loud in blighting character by false assertion, and when called on for proof, be silent? Why was not the Advocate silent at first? Why, when the dark business of slander and detraction was doing, be loud, and when proof is called for, be silent? The Advocate published the hints and suggestions of a morbid imagination, and when called on to state the facts, it is silent! I called for the author of the hints, it is silent! I called for the proof of the assertion in these words, used by the Advocate, "we are co-workers with nine-tenths of the administration, in bringing the officers of Amos into disrepute." I pronounced that false, and called for proof, but the Advocate is silent!! The Advocate made me say, what I never said or thought, that is "that any one who would go into the post-office at Jackson, Mi., would find a cart load of Advocates." That is untrue, and I called on the Advocate for the proof; it is silent! Is not this strange? This silence must be understood as an acknowledgement on the part of the Advocate.

This foolish, spunky paper is at length ashamed of itself, and well it may, for those who first brought it into existence bear testimony against it—contradicting it in all the important statements it has made concerning me, which I intend to publish, to let the public see, not only the lying and shameful perversion of truth, but the shameless affrontery which characterises its whole course. I am not as well practiced in the use of the pen as some connected with the Advocate, but all powerful truth is on my side, which requires no varnishing—it must prevail.

With one more remark, I will dismiss the Advocate for this week; and that is, that we found the two points on which the

editor of the Advocate dwelt, were both misrepresented—as to the first, if he had had ten fingers and could count them, he need not have made the false statement in it.

P. B. VAN NORMAN.

MURDER FOR MISSISSIPPI YET!

By a private letter received in this place yesterday, we learn that the money of the Brandon bank is received at par in New York. We are glad to hear this intelligence, and take this occasion to speak of the able and judicious manner in which the affairs of this institution have been managed by its skillful president and board of directors. It will afford us great pleasure to record the same news to the credit of our other state banks. The sooner steps are taken for the re-establishment of Mississippi credit at the north, the better it will be for the planters and merchants, and the true interest of the whole state.—*Manchester Whig*.

Extract of a letter to the editor of the Louisiana Chronicle, dated

New Orleans, March 2, 1838.

"There is nothing new in the city, except the bank veto. I understand it is the intention of the friends of the late bank bill to introduce another—just such an one as would suit the banks, and the friends of bank reform and restriction would be compelled to yield, but in this they are mistaken. No bill can be passed this session, that has not been previously introduced. The house passed a resolution to-day to adjourn on the 12th inst."

It is known, we believe, that the old U. States bank notes were retained by Mr. Biddle, in order to assist him in his great scheme of bringing about and causing to continue the present suspension of specie payments; for this purpose, they were sent in large quantities to all parts of the Union, there to be exchanged, before suspicion of the design could be excited, for the notes of the state banks, so that these corporations are now almost altogether under the control of Mr. Biddle. The New Orleans part of the plan was executed with great success. We have already shown in this paper, that the Merchants' Bank, (Mr. Biddle's agency,) by means of these old notes, received from Philadelphia last winter and spring, and issued here so plentifully during that time, brought the greater part of the city banks into its debt, as was shown in the bank statements laid before the public by the legislature. By this nefarious process, has Mr. Biddle obtained the power of preventing a return to specie payments; the only cure for the present deranged state of affairs. Counting the state banks in subjection to his will, the capital of the Pennsylvania Bank and his other resources, he now commands a capital of one hundred and fifty millions of dollars; and with such strength he very confidently asserts, that no return to specie payments can be effected without his consent, which he will never give, until the people suffer him to mount upon their backs, again, by granting him the charter of another national bank—when this is done, he will resume, and for a third time, it will be perpetual, they need never hope to shake it off again.—*South-cerner*.

The following is from the Pennsylvania Reporter, of Feb. 13, the fact deserves the serious consideration of freemen, who wish still to be free:

THE BANKS AND THE PEOPLE.

The emissaries of the banks infest the seat of government, and are incessant in their exertions to influence the action of the legislature. We warn them, as well as their employers, to beware. There is a point beyond which forbearance ceases to be a virtue. The people have patiently submitted to their wanton abuses and their bankruptcy—but they never will succumb to the additional outrage of an attempt to control the free action of the legislature. There is no disposition to crush the banks. We therefore warn these institutions to recall their emissaries. If they will not—if they will madly rush on to their own destruction—he it so. The consequence will not be attributable to any "destructive" propensity of the representatives of the people—but to a just retribution for a daring interference with the sacred rights of the community.

The humiliating spectacle was yesterday exhibited of a member of the house of representatives endeavoring to palliate his desertion of the principles which he had acted upon, up to Sunday morning last, by the plea that he was compelled to ADOPT his new course by letters received from directors of a certain Bank, to which he was indebted!!

The vote of that member turned the scale in favor of the instructions. Whether his plea be founded in truth, we have not the evidence before us to enable us to speak positively.

Let the people see to it!

BRANDON NOTES REDEEMED.

The U. S. Bank in this city, having received funds for that purpose, have during the present week, redeemed at par, all the notes of the Mississippi and Alabama Rail Road Co., at Brandon, Mi., that have been offered.—We are not aware how long this desirable arrangement will hold.

Saturday (Phila.) Courier.

S. S. Prentiss declared in Congress that he would not again be a candidate. The Vicksburg Register put up the flag, and hauled it down again, to await further orders. Will not the Courier do the same?—*Free Trader*.